<u>REMARKS</u>

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 9, 17, and 24 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. The Applicant submits that the amendments set forth herein are supported by the disclosure, for example, on page 7, lines 10-17, and are self evident from the previous claim language. The amendments set forth herein are not believed to raise any new issues and are believed to place the application into condition for allowance or better condition for appeal, and thus the Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments set forth herein.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroyanagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,767) in view of page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1, of the present application. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

The basic requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness as set forth in MPEP 2143 include (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest <u>all</u> of the claim limitations. The Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in the present case because the references, either taken singularly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

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Claim 1 of the present application recites a method of managing a print job

comprising, among other steps, the steps of prompting a user to enter identification

information at a computer separate from the printer, and editing the print job information at

the printer using the computer, wherein the editing of the print job information is performed

while the print job information is at the printer. Claim 9 recites a system for managing a print

job comprising, among other features, means for prompting a user to enter identification

information at a computer separate from the printer, and means for editing the print job

information at the printer using the computer, wherein the means for editing is configured to

perform the editing of the print job information while the print job information is at the

printer. And Claim 17 recites a computer program product comprising, among other features,

a third computer code device configured to prompt a user to enter identification information

at the computer, and a fifth computer code device configured to edit the print job information

at the printer using the computer, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to

perform the editing of the print job information while the print job information is at the

printer.

In the Response to Arguments section on page 4 of the outstanding Official Action, it

is suggested that the phrase "edit[ing] said print job information at said printer" is readable on

either an editing operation performed at said printer on the job information or an editing

operation performed upon job information that is placed (at some point) at said printer, and

that the Kuroyanagi reference reads on the latter interpretation. While the Applicant

respectfully disagrees with the latter interpretation of the claim language, in the interests of

expediting the prosecution of the present application the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 9,

and 17 in order to clarify the exclusion of this latter interpretation from the claim language.

More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the editing of the print job

information is performed while the print job information is at the printer, Claim 9 has been

amended to clarify that the means for editing is configured to perform the editing of the print

job information while the print job information is at the printer, and Claim 17 has been

amended to clarify that the fifth computer code device is configured to perform the editing of

the print job information while the print job information is at the printer. Such features are

not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, either when taken singularly or in

combination.

As noted in the previous response, the Kuroyanagi reference describes a print server

for transmitting a printing job sent from a client connected to a network to an image output

apparatus. A print-server control section (102) receives a printing job (103a) output from a

personal computer (300) through a network interface (101), and stores it in a printing-job

storage section (103). To maintain server security, the print-server control section (102)

checks whether a password for the server specified in advance is included in the printing job

(103a). Only when the password for the server is included, the printing job (103a) is stored

in the printing-job storage section (103). Then, the print-server control section (102)

sequentially outputs data to the image input and output apparatus (200) and other units

according to printing destination data and output priority data included in the printing job

(103a).

The Official Action indicates that "part of the print job information (103a) input at the

personal computer (300) (i.e. printing count 604) is uploaded to the print server computer

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(100) (inherently editing the information previously stored there, either by adding new information or replacing older information, so that the edited information received by the printer is the edited version)." (Pages 2-3 of the Official Action.) The printing count referred to in the Official Action as "editing" the information in the printer server (100) is provided by the image input and output apparatus (200). The printing count is managed in the image input and output apparatus (200) and collectively managed in the print server (100) (column 8, lines 19-23) by uploading the printing count to the print server (100) (column 6, lines 28-30). Thus, the Applicant submits that the Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose editing the print job information at the printer using the computer that is separate from the printer and that prompts a user to enter identification information, *where the editing of the print job information is performed while the print job information is at the printer.* The Kuroyanagi reference describes a system in which the printing count is updated in the image input and output apparatus (200) and uploaded to the print server (100). The print server (100) is configured to broadcast a count request command at a predetermined time or intervals. (Column 8, lines 24-27.) The printing count is not edited by any of the personal computers (300, 301, 302) connected to the network (400).

Thus, the Applicant submits that the Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose or even suggest editing of print job information that is performed while the print job information is at the printer, in the manner recited in Claims 1, 9, and 17 of the present application. Furthermore, page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1, of the present application do not disclose or suggest such a feature. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 17 based on the combination of cited references.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of Claims 1, 9, and 17.

Claim 24 advantageously recites a graphical user interface for managing a print job originated from a computer comprising a display of printing attributes transmitted to a printer separate from the computer, an input to perform editing of the printing attributes using the computer while the printing attributes are at the printer, and a first push button configured to be selected so as to transmit edits to the printing attributes edited with the input to the printer and to a storage device separate from the printer, where the graphical user interface is the computer.

The Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose or suggest a graphical user interface for managing a print job originated from a computer comprising an input to perform editing of the printing attributes using the computer while the printing attributes are at the printer, and a first push button configured to be selected so as to transmit edits to the printing attributes edited with the input to a printer separate from the computer and to a storage device separate from the printer, as recited in Claim 24, for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 17. In the Kuroyanagi reference, the print job originates from one of the personal computers (300, 301, 302) (see column 3, lines 26-28), but these computers (300, 301, 302) are not configured to edit the printing attributes. In fact, the Kuroyanagi reference does not discuss editing of printing attributes, or an input configured to provide such a feature. Furthermore, page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1 of the present application does not supplement the deficiencies noted above with regard to the Kuroyanagi reference.

Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to Claim
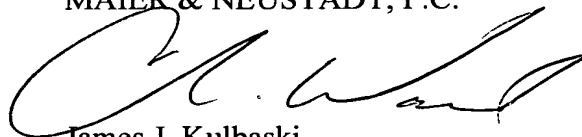
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24 based on the combination of cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claim 24.

The dependent claims are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for the independent claims from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of their respective independent claim.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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